



## **PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Senator Inouye presides over “first step” in Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard Modernization**

PEARL HARBOR -- Hawaii’s senior U.S. Senator presided over the groundbreaking here today for a \$25.5 million military construction project that is “the first step” in the planned modernization of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard.

Senator Daniel K. Inouye called this project “essential to ensuring an efficient and effective shipyard in the years ahead”.

The construction project, designated “P-302”, will provide permanent facilities for the distribution of water, compressed air, welding gases and other utilities to Shipyard dry docks and piers. Currently, Shipyard workers must install these services on a temporary basis whenever they begin work on a ship or submarine, resulting in additional cost, inefficiency, and safety concerns.

In his keynote address, Senator Inouye stated “The Asia-Pacific area is a place of special concern, a place of potential problems and potential trouble . . . so we should be ready and prepared.” He said the Shipyard’s modernization is “important if we are to stay in the front lines (of the Asia-Pacific Region).”

The Shipyard commander, Navy Captain Greg R. Thomas, cited the opportunities and challenges the Shipyard faces in coming years. He cited the P-302 project as “the first of many military construction projects to meet these challenges” under a recently completed “Shipyard Facilities Modernization Plan”.

Thomas noted that the U.S. Navy will be moving 60 percent of its submarine force to the Asia-Pacific Region, with 40 percent remaining in the Atlantic region. As part of this shift of emphasis, he said that the first VIRGINIA-class submarine, the USS Hawaii, would arrive in Hawaii this summer.

“Another opportunity for our Shipyard,” said Thomas, “is that we have the finest men and women working here of any public or private shipyard in America.” Thomas thanked Senator Inouye for his support for of the Shipyard and its workforce over many years.

Regarding the challenges ahead, Thomas said Shipyard structures are in “desperate need of modernization”, and that the shipyard facilities layout is “outdated and inefficient.” Most of the Shipyard’s structures were built between 1913 and 1945. Many shops and functions are scattered in an inefficient layout, and are housed within outmoded buildings or temporary structures.

Thomas noted that these problems can cause delays in completion of work on submarine overhauls and surface ship maintenance, and waste critically short resources.

In December 2008, the Commander of Navy Region Hawaii approved a multi-year Shipyard facilities modernization plan. This plan lays out a vision for \$600 million to \$800 million in infrastructure improvements through the year 2035. (For more information on this plan, please visit the Shipyard Log, February 2009 edition, at [www.phnsy.navy.mil](http://www.phnsy.navy.mil).)

Senator Inouye said he ensured the P-302 project Congressional funding based on discussions with many men and women who work at the shipyard. “After conferring with many of you here, I concluded that the project was essential,” he said.

The ceremony was conducted near Dry Dock 2, and followed this sequence:

Mr. Stephen Sasaki, Shipyard Production Facilities Manager

Captain Greg R. Thomas, USN,  
Commander, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard

Pastor Edwin H. Sproat

Rear Admiral Dixon R. Smith, USN  
Commander, Navy Region Hawaii, and Naval Surface Group Mid-Pacific

Mr. William H. Ryzewic  
Deputy Chief of Staff for Fleet Maintenance, U.S. Pacific Fleet

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, United States Senate

Photographs of the ceremony are available at [www.phnsy.navy.mil](http://www.phnsy.navy.mil) “Shipyard News”